United States Patent

Robinson

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[54] STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT ADAPTED FOR INTERCHANGEABLE BODIES

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[21] Appl. No.: **88,057**

[52] **U.S. Cl.**.....**84/1.16,** 84/267, 84/293

[51] **Int. Cl.**.....**G10d 1/00,** G10h 3/00

[58] **Field of Search**.....84/1.16, 267, 293, 314, 315, 84/DIG. 30

[56] **References Cited**

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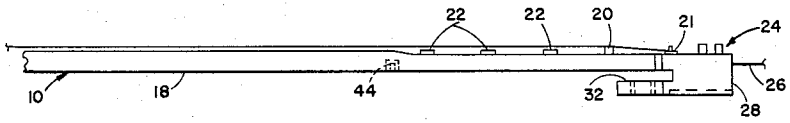
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A stringed musical instrument such as a guitar wherein the neck assembly is extended to include the bridge and tailpiece, and the body of the instrument and neck assembly are detachable. The end region of the neck assembly supporting tailpiece is made in the form of a U and a cutout region at the rear of the body is adapted to receive the cutout region to form a tongue and groove structural joint between the neck assembly and body of the instrument.

3 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures



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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

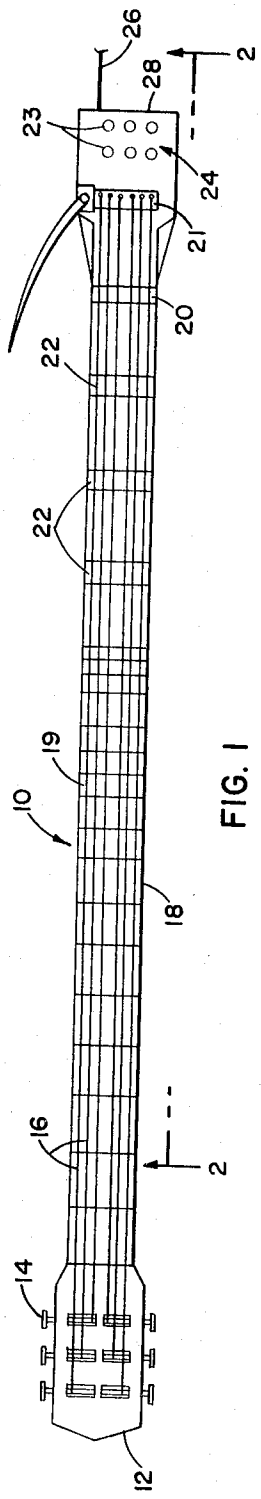


FIG. 1

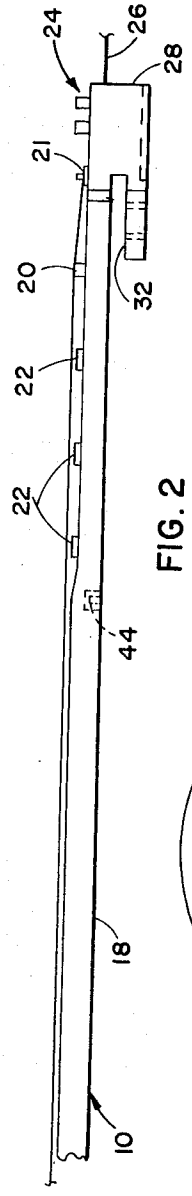


FIG. 2

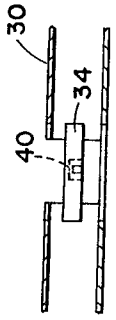


FIG. 6

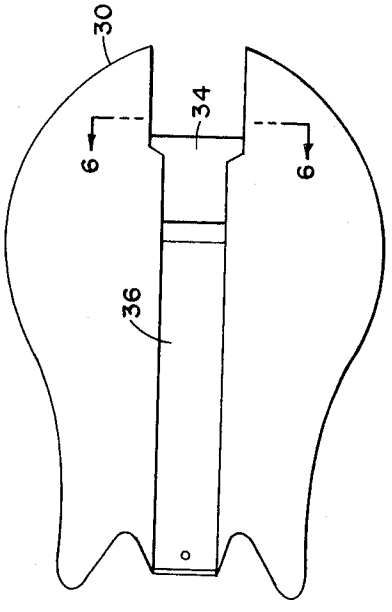


FIG. 5

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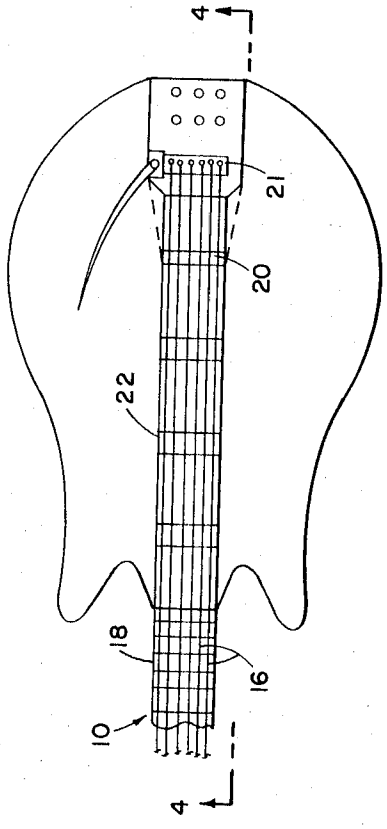


FIG. 3

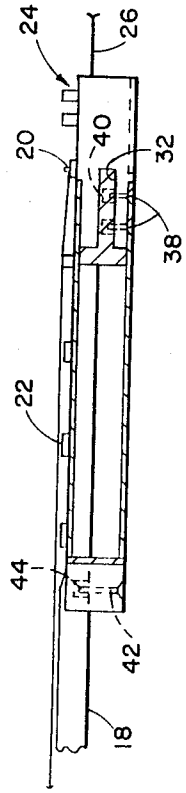


FIG. 4

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STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT ADAPTED FOR INTERCHANGEABLE BODIES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

This invention related to stringed musical instruments and particularly to a novel structural arrangement wherein the neck assembly and body of the instrument are detachable.

Typically a stringed instrument consists of a neck assembly and a body assembly with strings being supported at one extreme end by a head member attached to the neck assembly and at the other extreme end by a tailpiece attached to the body assembly. Thus the neck and body assemblies are structurally interdependent in supporting the strings. While musically this arrangement is fine there is the limitation that a body selection once made is permanent insofar as the particular instrument is concerned. With purely acoustical guitars this does not seem to be much of a detriment, however with the evolution of electrical guitars there has occurred a demand for a range of body configurations varying from those including large cavities to small cavities and to various sized and shaped solid bodies. Thus the musician who has a requirement for an instrument having different body configurations must now purchase several complete guitars.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

To meet the aforesaid difficulties the present invention provides a stringed instrument in which the body of the instrument is detachable from the neck assembly and wherein the latter includes the complete playing portion including electrical pickups and tailpiece.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a plan view of stringed musical instrument separate from a body assembly;

FIG. **2** is an elevation view of the instrument shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a partial plan view of a stringed musical instrument including the instrument shown in FIGS. **1** and **2** and a body assembly;

FIG. **4** is an elevation view of the instrument shown in FIG. **3**;

FIG. **5** is a plan view of the body assembly portion of the instrument shown in FIG. **3**; and

FIG. **6** is a sectional view along lines **6-6** of FIG. **5**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Neck assembly **10** includes head member **12** which is conventional and which mounts a plurality of pegs **14** which support assembly **10** includes conventional frets **19** and bridge **20**, and extends between head member **12** and tail piece **21**. Tailpiece **21** is a composite part of or rigidly mounted on neck assembly **10** and it provides a fixed support for strings **16** which thus extend from head member **12** attached to the opposite end of elongated arm **18** for substantially the full length of arm **18**. Electrical pickups **22** are mounted on arm **18** and are appropriately positioned to provide the desired response. Arm **18** also supports tone controls **23** and volume and vibrato control **24**, the controls being appropriately interconnected with pickups **22** to provide an electrical output at electrical terminal **26**.

Neck assembly **10** includes, as a particular feature of this invention, rear attachment member **28** at one end of arm **18** is adapted to provide a basic structural interconnection between neck assembly **10** and detachable body **30**. This is accomplished by means of U-shaped groove **32** in rear attachment member **28** which is adapted to receive tongue **34** of body **30**. Arm **18** of neck assembly **10** is laterally supported by its insertion in recess **36** of body **30**. Body **30** is finally locked to neck assembly **10** by means of bolts **38** which extend upward from the bottom of rear attachment member **28** into nuts **40** which are imbedded in tongue **34** of body **30** and by bolt **42** which extends upward from the bottom of the front portion of body **30** into nuts **44** embedded in neck assembly **10**.

Thus, in order to attach neck assembly **10** to detachable body **30** it is only necessary to slip neck assembly **10** to the left causing groove **32** to close over tongue **34** and to insert and tighten bolts **38** and **42**. Thus a musician would typically have a variety of detachable bodies **30** varying in color characteristics, and shapes. Then, as desired, one would be selectively attached to neck assembly **10**. To facilitate assembly and disassembly bolts **38** and **42** may have wing type heads which can be simply hand tightened.

What is claimed is:

1. A stringed musical instrument comprising:

an elongated arm;

a tailpiece rigidly attached to one end of said arm and including means for fixedly supporting strings at one end of said instrument;

a headpiece rigidly attached to the opposite end of said elongated arm and including means for adjustably supporting strings at an opposite end of said instrument;

a plurality of strings supported by and between said headpiece and tailpiece;

at least one electrical pickup attached to said arm and positioned under said strings;

body attachment means comprising a U-shaped end region of said elongated arm adjacent said tailpiece forming a groove corresponding in width with said end region and adapted to receive a mating tongue of a stringed musical instrument body.

2. A stringed instrument as set forth in claim **1** further comprising a said musical instrument body having a said tongue region adapted to interlock with said "U" shaped groove of said body attachment means.

3. A stringed musical instrument as set forth in claim **2** wherein said musical instrument body includes an elongated recess adapted to laterally support said neck assembly and further comprises locking means for securing said elongated arm in said recess.

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